

INITIATIVE 720

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 720 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to restricting the area of sales of nontaxable
2 merchandise to fifteen thousand square feet within new retail stores
3 and the expansion of existing retail stores exceeding one hundred
4 thousand square feet without obtaining approval by the voters from the
5 local jurisdiction at the next general election; and adding new
6 sections to chapter 19.27 RCW.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet present
11 challenges for local government.

12 (2) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet create more
13 traffic congestion and increased levels of pollution.

14 (3) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet require
15 additional services such as highway improvements, sewer, water, fire,
16 and police protection.

17 (4) Revenue generated by locally owned and/or operated stores
18 recirculates within the community and revenue generated by large retail
19 stores often goes directly to out-of-town headquarters.

1 (5) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet must
2 produce significant revenue from sales tax items to offset the added
3 costs to local government.

4 (6) Because of the factors in subsections (1) through (5) of this
5 section, new or expanded retail stores exceeding one hundred thousand
6 square feet shall be restricted to not more than fifteen thousand
7 square feet of nontaxable merchandise.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The definitions in this section apply throughout this act unless
11 the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Area of sales" means areas for meat and produce processing,
13 packaging, storage, display, and merchandising.

14 (2) "Expansion of existing retail stores" means expansion of
15 existing retail stores which would result in a total square footage of
16 over one hundred thousand square feet or if the existing retail store
17 is one hundred thousand square feet or more the expansion cannot exceed
18 fifteen thousand square feet of nontaxable merchandise within the total
19 square footage of the retail store.

20 (3) "Nontaxable merchandise" means all products not subject to
21 Washington state sales tax.

22 (4) "Local jurisdiction" means the city and unincorporated county
23 in which the planned retail store or planned expansion of existing
24 retail store resides.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 (1) For purposes of this act, the sales and square footage of
28 adjacent stores shall be aggregated if the stores share check stands,
29 management, a controlling ownership interest, a warehouse, or a
30 distribution facility.

31 (2) For purposes of this act, new retail stores and the expansion
32 of existing retail stores shall mean all retail stores and/or
33 expansions which have not filed a completed application for permits.

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